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Sept. 29, 2008

Ravalli County Planning Dept
Ravalli County Commissioners
215 S. 4th St., Suite F
Hamilton, MT 59840

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Ravalli County Commissioners

Dear Planning Dept and Commissioners,

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My family and I are corresponding to make comments on the future growth and zoning policies that may be imposed in the near future. As a resident of Stevensville for over 30+ years, Air Force Vietnam Veteran, U. S. Forest Service retiree, graduate of U of M, and local rancher, I believe you should be commended for governing our valley to a fair and livable future. In concurrence is my wife, Marlene, a U of M retiree and my daughter, JoMay, a graduate of U of M.

We do not have any serious concerns about new zoning regulations, as our land would probably classify as the RA-5 designation and would be suitable for planned usage. Our greatest concern at this time and the past four years is the nearby Stevensville Airport which has continued to grow in resident aircraft, aircraft facilities, and transient flight traffic. Our home is located about 1/2 mile to the North of their West Runway "12" and may be, by pilot's choice, subject to "fly-overs". These annoying, unsafe fly-overs have greatly increased in the past four years of the 31 years the Wyatt family has lived at our residence. Some residents, by choice, have built at or near the airport. but we do not consider ourselves as "airport residents". Our home was built in 1972.

That being said, we have not sat idly by, but since 2004 we have been working with the Stevensville Airport Board, the FAA, and some cooperative pilots to eliminate this disturbing problem. This communication has helped with this issue, but we still receive some fly-overs from some unconcerned and/or uninformed pilots. It would be fair and sad to say that our best "down time" at home is when the weather is bad!

At this point, the Wyatt's and possibly other residents would be concerned if the Stevensville Airport were to expand in anyway. AirNav.com states that this airport has increased from 58 to 78 based aircraft from January '07 to present, a 35% increase. These aircraft as well as transient aircraft are unattended, meaning no formal ground control, which is unlike Ravalli County Airport with attendance from 0800-1700 with 116 based aircraft.

We wish the Stevi Airport well and commend the associated folks that have shown concern and offered assistance in this issue, but it seems this Airport has reached its potential for this area and is lacking the controlled attendance of the similar Ravalli Airport. Your consideration with this unwanted growth in our area is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

William and Marlene Wyatt

JoMay Wyatt Pescador